



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

previous writers, even though I disapprove of it." (p. 21). We cannot agree with Mr. Chapman in this theory, and see no real valid reason why we should perpetuate the errors of our predecessors in the science of ornithology.

The classification of the birds of Trinidad adopted by Mr. Chapman is the only faulty feature of this otherwise careful work by a Naturalist who has thus far in his career earned a reputation for great painstaking.

He divides the Trinidad avifauna simply into two primary ORDERS—the PASSERES and the MACROCHIRES.

In the first named the following families are represented, viz: the *Turdidæ*; the *Troglodytidæ* [Sic.]; the *Mniotiltidæ*; the *Cœrebidæ*; the *Vireonidæ*; the *Hirundinidæ*; the *Tanagridæ*; the *Fringillidæ*; the *Icteridæ*; the *Tyrannidæ*; the *Pipridæ*; the *Cotingidæ*; the *Dendrocolaptidæ*; and the *Formicariidæ*.

This may answer for the Passeres, but his order Macrochires is very carelessly arranged. In it he retains the "Humming-birds, Swifts, Goat-suckers, etc.," and leads off with the family *Trochilidæ*, between which and the Swifts there appears no family dividing line; nor is there between the Swifts and the Goat-suckers. The "etc." given above seems to include also without dividing family lines, Wood-peckers, Kingfishers, Trogons, Jacamars, Cuckoos, Toucans, Parrots, Owls, Vultures, Hawks and Pigeons, Jacamas, and indeed all the rest of the avifauna of the Island, including all the water-birds. At the close of the "list" some of the birds are enumerated entirely in their wrong places in the system. I refer to the point where *Crypturus pileatus* follows *Colymbus dominicus*.

The writer of this review has long since failed to recognize the naturalness of the so-called order "Macrochires," but here certainly is an application of it that is, at the best, quite unique in ornithological literature.—R. W. SHUFELDT.

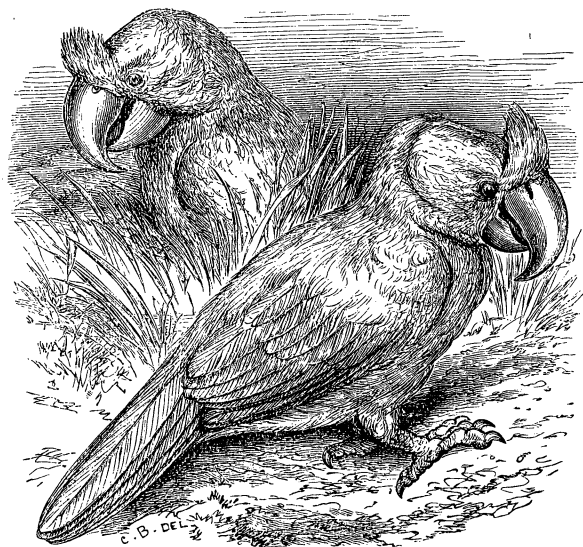
Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences, Vol. VI,² embraces 331 pages, of which the following is the list of contents;—On the Capture of Comets by Planets, especially their Capture by Jupiter, by H. A. Newton.—Atmospheric Electricity, by Robert Catlin, U. S. A.—On Certain New Methods and Results in Optics, by C. S. Hastings.—The Proteids or Abuminoids of the Oat Kernel, by T. B. Osborne.—A Comparison of Antipodal Faunas, by Theodore Gill.—Families and Sub-Families of Fishes, by Theodore Gill.—Human

²Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences, Vol. VI. Washington, 1893.

Bones of the Hemenway Collection in the U. S. Army and Medical Museum, by W. Matthews, Surgeon, U. S. A., Dr. J. L. Wortman and Dr. J. S. Billings.—Further Studies on the Brain of *Limulus polyphemus*, with notes on its Embryology, by A. S. Packard.

Four of the eight memoirs are profusely illustrated.

A Dictionary of Birds.³—Under this title, Professor Newton publishes a series of articles contributed to the ninth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, modified and supplemented by recent acquisitions to the knowledge of the Avian history. The contributions of Dr. Gadow bring the anatomical portion up to date, and those of Dr. Lydekker furnish the paleontology. The material is arranged in alphabetical order and includes the names of birds in common use, excluding local names except such as have found their way into some sort of literature; technical terms; and all of the important branches of Ornithology; as flight, migration, extermination, embryology, eggs, color, geographical distribution, etc.



Lophopsittacus mauritianus M-Edw. ; the extinct parrot of Mauritius.

The numerous illustrations add to the attractiveness of the work. Many of those representing the bill, wings and feet, are those pub-

³A Dictionary of Birds, by Alfred Newton; assisted by Hans Gadow; with contributions from R. Lydekker, C. S. Roy and R. W. Shufeldt. Pt. I and II. London, 1893, Adam and Charles Black, Publishers.